

SENATOR DIERKS: I wasn't concerned about the biological parents finding out information, I was more concerned about information being obtained by the adopted child from that child's biological parents when anonymity has been requested and there's...is there anything in this bill that would destroy that confidentiality?

SENATOR CONWAY: I don't see where there would be. For one, the information flow is from the adopting parents back to the biological parent relative to...and typically the confidentiality at that point, you are concerned with the adopted child becoming familiar with who his biological parents are?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes.

SENATOR CONWAY: Typically, there isn't even any flow in that information other than the fact that if they went through the Department of Social Services they couldn't intercept the letter and see the address or where it was being sent or whatever, it would be just simply going to the state. So if they are really concerned with that, I would use the state as the buffer.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, this is my concern because I think that we have quite a moral obligation here concerning, if we want to even look at it, the abortion problem in the state because many parents, I think young unwed mothers, for instance, are concerned about having abortions especially when there is a chance that if their child is born and adopted, someone could find out later that they had one when they were requesting anonymity or confidentiality. I wondered if we were addressing that in this bill.

SENATOR CONWAY: Well, it's addressed in the sense, like I say, if that is the case of what it be, that could be put into place through the Social Services. What we're talking about typically here are children that are in many cases four, five, ten, 12-years-old who have lived with their parents, but because of abuse and other reasons, know who their parents are, there is no question there. The point being, once they are adopted, that biological parent who may be incarcerated and may be institutionalized in various fashions, are told, don't sign a relinquishment and let your child go up for adoption because for all practical purposes you no longer have any knowledge whatsoever and have no access to knowledge of whatever happened